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Information
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REGIONAL LABORATORIES FOR RESEARCH ON UTILIZATION OF FARM PRODUCTS

The establishment of four regional laboratories was authorized by Section 202 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. Under this section the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized and directed to "establish, equip, and maintain four regional research laboratories, one in each major farm producing area, and, at such laboratories to conduct researches into and to develop new scientific, chemical, and technical uses and new and extended markets and outlets for farm commodities and products and byproducts thereof." Such research and development shall be devoted primarily to those farm commodities in which there are regular or seasonal surpluses, and their products and byproducts." The Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering administers the laboratories for the Department.

Locations of Regional Laboratories

After a careful survey of many possible sites, locations for the laboratories were decided upon as follows:

Northern Regional Laboratory - Peoria, Illinois

Southern Regional Laboratory - New Orleans, Louisiana

Western Regional Laboratory - Albany, California
(San Francisco Bay area)

Eastern Regional Laboratory - Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania
(Suburb of Philadelphia)

Temporary headquarters are as follows:

Northern Regional Research Laboratory,
515 Commercial Merchants Bank Building,
301 South Adams Street,
Peoria, Illinois

Southern Regional Research Laboratory,
508 Queen & Crescent Building,
344 Camp Street,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Western Regional Research Laboratory,
Addison Building,
15 Shattuck Square,
Berkeley, California

Eastern Regional Research Laboratory,
18 West Chelton Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Laboratory Buildings

Construction work was started on all four laboratories during June 1939. It is expected that the buildings will be completed and equipped for occupancy during the late summer or fall of 1940. The general design and layout of all four buildings are similar. They are U-shaped structures, of three stories and basement, with separate power-plant buildings. Each laboratory building is divided into an administrative unit forming the base of the U; chemical laboratory wing, housing the research laboratory; and an industrial laboratory wing for semi-plant scale process development.

Personnel

The Directors of the four regional laboratories were appointed on January 1, 1939. They are:

Dr. O. E. May - Northern Regional Laboratory
Mr. D. F. J. Lynch - Southern Regional Laboratory
Dr. T. L. Swenson - Western Regional Laboratory
Dr. P. A. Wells - Eastern Regional Laboratory

All positions in these laboratories will be filled by selection from lists of eligibles furnished by the United States Civil Service Commission and by reinstatement or transfer of persons having Civil Service status. Persons interested in establishing their eligibility for a position in one of these laboratories should give the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., a brief outline of their qualifications, state the type of work in which they are interested, and request that their names be added to the mailing list to receive future announcements of examinations which fit their qualifications.

Approximately four hundred scientific appointments to the regional laboratories will be made gradually from Civil Service registers set up as a result of examinations. Positions will be filled requiring the services of organic, physical, and analytical chemists and others in the fields of carbohydrate chemistry, protein chemistry, oil chemistry, cellulose chemistry, and chemical engineering, as well as in a number of other fields. In addition, the laboratories will employ clerical staffs, mechanics, custodians, etc.

Commodities Assigned for Initial Study

The following commodities have been selected to receive initial attention in the research programs of the four regional laboratories:

Northern Area

Corn
Wheat
Agricultural Residues

Southern Area

Cotton
Sweetpotatoes
Peanuts

Western Area

Fruits
Vegetables
White Potatoes
Wheat
Alfalfa
Poultry Products and Byproducts

Eastern Area

Tobacco
Apples
White Potatoes
Milk Products
Vegetables
Animal Fats and Oils
Tanning Materials, Hides
and Skins

The objective of this research is to discover and develop new uses and new and extended markets and outlets for these farm products.

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